UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/1261
17 December 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 DECEMBER 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to write to you in connection with the intention of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, to grant permission to the Republic of Albania to open a representative office in this Serbian province.

A decision to that effect is grist to the mill of ethnic Albanian separatism in Kosovo and Metohija and would further destabilize the region. It falls within the concept of the creation of Greater Albania at the expense of the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and some other countries in the region and the drive to redraw international borders by force. Enwrapping it in the authority of the United Nations threatens to draw the world Organization into machinations that are contrary to its Charter and the principles of international law.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls on the Security Council to consider the arbitrary decision of the Special Representative, which runs counter to his mandate, and to take appropriate measures to protect its own authority, as well as the authority of the United Nations.

In writing to you, I take the liberty of recalling the continuous destructive role, now in the ascendant, played by the Republic of Albania vis-à-vis the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Balkans, particularly vis-à-vis the situation in Kosovo and Metohija.

The Republic of Albania is the only country in the world and the only State Member of the United Nations that has officially recognized and actively supported the illegal separatist creation of the so-called Republic of Kosovo, proclaimed in the sovereign territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It also allowed that illegal creation to open its "representative office" in Tirana. Although taken in most flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles and documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), those decisions have never been revoked.

Plagued by chaos and lawlessness, the Republic of Albania has stopped at nothing in order to "export" them to Kosovo and Metohija and to instigate the local ethnic Albanian minority to be disloyal to its own State. It took an active part in creating and arming the terrorist/separatist so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and transformed a large part of its territory into a KLA recruitment and training camp and a logistic base for its campaign of terror and violence in Kosovo and Metohija.

The Republic of Albania continues to be a source of instability and to provide a safe haven to terrorists, the narco-mafia and organized crime. Permitting the opening of its representative office would not only be contrary to the basic norms of international relations and Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 and violate the sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, but also render direct support to separatism and terrorism and the transformation of Kosovo and Metohija into a springboard for the criminalization of Europe.

Kosovo and Metohija is an integral and inalienable part of the sovereign territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Its status is based on all relevant peace treaties signed in this century, the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and the principle of international law and has been expressly confirmed in Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). Bearing that in mind, I wish to point out that, under international law, representative offices of foreign States or international organizations can be opened in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia only with the prior consent and approval of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The international security and civil presences, as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, have no right to violate in whatever way the basic principle of international law and international relations relative to the respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and cannot exercise or replace sovereign power.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.